



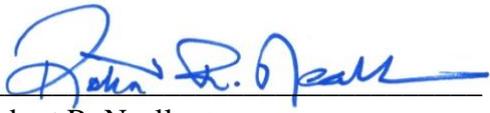
NOTICE – SECTION 19-307.2 OF THE HEALTH-GENERAL ARTICLE
(June 12, 2020)

This notice is given by Robert R. Neall, Secretary of Health, acting pursuant to the Proclamation of Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr. (the “Governor”) dated March 5, 2020 proclaiming a state of emergency and the existence of a catastrophic health emergency related to COVID-19, as it may be amended or renewed from time to time, and the Order of the Governor dated March 12, 2020 entitled “Extending Certain Licenses, Permits, Registrations, and Other Governmental Authorizations, and Authorizing Suspension of Legal Time Requirements,” as it may be amended from time to time, after finding that the action described herein will not endanger the public health, welfare, or safety.

Section 19-307.2 of the Health-General Article provides that “the Secretary shall annually calculate [each general] hospital’s licensed bed capacity” based on 140 percent of the hospital’s average daily census for the preceding twelve months. Then, before each July 1, “the Secretary shall delicense hospital beds determined to be excess bed capacity.” The calculation required by this statute would require the delicensure of approximately 2.5% of the licensed bed capacity in Maryland’s general hospitals. This requirement would harm the public health and safety by reducing hospital capacity at a time when the State of Maryland has been working to increase capacity to meet any surge in demand for hospital beds caused by COVID-19. Accordingly, the Secretary is suspending the requirement to recalculate each hospital’s licensed bed capacity and delicense beds before July 1, 2020.

This notice will remain in effect until the 30th day after the termination of the state of emergency and rescission of the catastrophic health emergency.

Date: June 12, 2020



Robert R. Neall
Secretary of Health